



North Dakota

# FARM REPORTER

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## CROP WEATHER

**N**orth Dakota March began with wet conditions and cold temperatures, but ended with above normal temperatures. Warm, dry conditions early in April allowed the average starting date for fieldwork of April 14 compared with April 17 last year. Tillage and planting for the 2004 season progressed well ahead of both last year and the five-year

(1999- 2003) average. Planting stayed ahead of normal until the end of May despite rains that started mid-May throughout much of the state. The favorable weather in April and early May was followed by several weeks of cool, wet conditions pushing planting progress behind last year and the five-year average by early June.

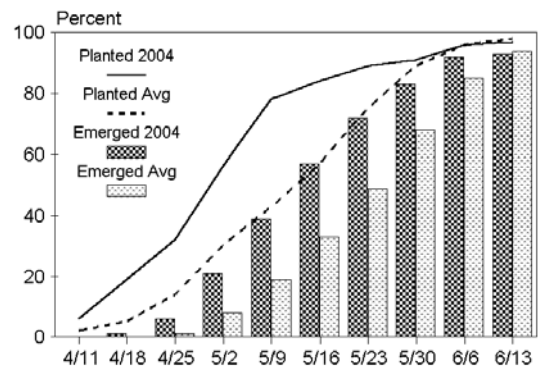
Small grain emergence was substantially ahead of the five-year average pace during May. Hard red spring wheat emergence was 83 percent as of May 30. By the middle of June, emergence for all crops except corn fell behind the five-year average.

Crop conditions were rated mostly good to excellent through the middle of June. Reduced or lost first cutting hay crops were reported in areas that had been dry. Pastures and ranges were

rated 35 percent good to excellent on June 13 compared to 65 percent on June 15, 2003. Cool spring temperatures slowed hay and pasture growth across the state.

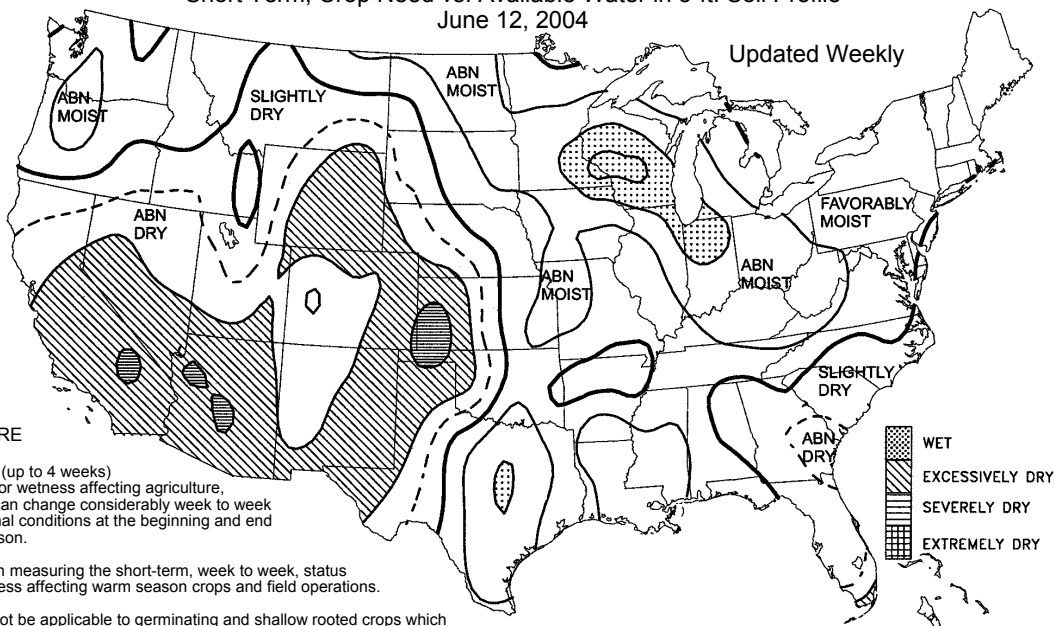
Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 64 percent adequate and 9 surplus in early April, but rose to a rating of 54 percent adequate and 26 surplus by mid-June. The southwest district remained dry due to a lack of significant rainfalls during the spring.

**Spring Wheat Progress**  
North Dakota, 2004 and Average



## CROP MOISTURE

Short Term, Crop Need vs. Available Water in 5-ft. Soil Profile  
June 12, 2004



### CROP MOISTURE

Depicts short-term (up to 4 weeks) abnormal dryness or wetness affecting agriculture, responds rapidly, can change considerably week to week and indicates normal conditions at the beginning and end of the growing season.

Uses...applicable in measuring the short-term, week to week, status of dryness or wetness affecting warm season crops and field operations.

Limitations...may not be applicable to germinating and shallow rooted crops which are unable to extract the deep or subsoil moisture from a 5-foot profile, or for cool season crops growing when temperatures are averaging below about 55F. It is not generally indicative of the long-term (months, years) drought or wet spells which are depicted by the drought severity index.

Computer generated contours  
Based on preliminary reports

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

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N.D. Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA ■ P.O. Box 3166 ■ Fargo, ND 58108-3166 ■ 701-239-5306

E-mail: [nass-nd@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nd@nass.usda.gov) ■ Internet: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/>

## POTATO STOCKS

### North Dakota

Stocks of potatoes totaled 5.00 million hundredweight (cwt) on June 1, 2004 in North Dakota growers, dealers and processors storage facilities. Stocks are up 85 percent from last year and 25 percent from June 1, 2002. Current stocks represent 18 percent of production, up from 12 percent last year and 15 percent two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest totaled 22.4 million cwt, up 8 percent from 2003, but virtually the same as two years ago. Disappearance during May totaled 3.30 million cwt. This was above last May's disappearance of 2.80 million cwt and 2.90 million cwt two years ago.

### United States

The 15 major potato states held 47.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2004, up 3 percent from last year and 10 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 12 percent of the 2003 fall storage states' production, 1 percent above last year. Disappearance of 357 million cwt of potatoes is down 1 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Processors in the 9 major states used 173 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 39.1 million cwt of the total processing.

**Fall Potatoes: Production and June 1 Stocks**

State	Crop of 2002		Crop of 2003	
	Production	Stocks June 1, 2003	Production	Stocks June 1, 2004
	-- 1,000 Cwt --		-- 1,000 Cwt --	
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>	23,460	2,700	27,440	5,000
California	4,316	700	3,444	<sup>1/</sup>
Colorado	27,885	3,800	23,652	1,800
Idaho	133,385	21,000	123,180	20,500
Maine	16,960	2,100	17,030	2,300
Michigan	13,878	<sup>1/</sup>	15,015	<sup>1/</sup>
Minnesota	18,810	2,300	22,330	3,500
Montana	3,224	<sup>1/</sup>	3,339	<sup>1/</sup>
Nebraska	8,611	<sup>1/</sup>	9,860	<sup>1/</sup>
New York	5,500	<sup>1/</sup>	6,510	<sup>1/</sup>
Ohio	902	<sup>1/</sup>	1,290	<sup>1/</sup>
Oregon	24,936	2,300	20,991	2,900
Pennsylvania	2,128	<sup>1/</sup>	3,915	<sup>1/</sup>
Washington	92,340	9,000	93,150	7,000
Wisconsin	30,750	1,300	32,800	2,000
Other States		780		2,410
<b>15 State Total</b>	<b>407,085</b>	<b>45,980</b>	<b>403,946</b>	<b>47,410</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Combined into Other States.

## OIL CROPS OUTLOOK

### U.S. Prices Dampened by Foreign Trade Developments

The 2004/05 U.S. soybean export forecast was trimmed to 1,065 million bushels from 1,080 million last month based on an overflow of larger than expected South American inventories. Similarly, a milder recovery for U.S. soybean meal and soybean oil exports would curb next season's expected crush. The domestic soybean crush for 2004/05 is forecast at 1,650 million bushels versus the May forecast of 1,665 million. A lighter use of soybeans would shave 15 cents off last month's projected range for the U.S. season average farm price to \$5.70-\$6.70 per bushel.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reduced the forecast of China's 2003/04 soybean imports this month from 20.25 million to 19.0 million metric tons on account of the financial difficulties afflicting the country's crushing industry. The setbacks for world demand were responsible for cutting the 2003/04 soybean export forecast for Brazil this month to 21.0 million tons from 23.0 million.

### Ample Midwestern Rains Delay Conclusion of Soybean Planting

After a very brisk start for spring planting, persistent and heavy rains during the last half of May slowed progress throughout the Midwest. Although soybean planting as of June 6 (85 percent) was very close to the 5-year average, wetness over the past few weeks is hampering its completion. Standing water in low-lying areas will require replanting in some locations. Whenever it becomes possible for farmers to return to the fields again, they will most likely finish by sowing soybeans. Until a month ago, the subsoil moisture in many of the regions that were hurt by drought last year had not been fully recharged. So, provided that producers can get a little topsoil drying over the next few weeks to complete fieldwork, the moisture should serve to get the entire crop off to a very good start. For most of the country, soybean emergence by early June (at 70 percent) was still ahead of average.

Source: Oil Crops Outlook, USDA-ERS, June 14, 2004

### **N**orth Dakota

Thanks to a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) will be able to conduct a scaled-back Project Safe Send collection this year in July.

"The state non-point source pollution task force clearly saw the value of Project Safe Send and recommended this project to the EPA, which authorized \$150,190 for the program this year," said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson, who announced the sites and dates of the 2004 collections. "Although we will be collecting at fewer sites this year, it is still the perfect opportunity for farmers, ranchers, homeowners, businesses and city and county governments to get rid of their unusable pesticides safely and at no cost."

Persons with more than 1,000 pounds of pesticides should call (701) 328-4997 to pre-register. Others do not have to pre-register. NDDA will accept up to 100 pounds of pesticide rinse water free of charge, then a \$1 fee will be charged for each additional pound.

Onyx Environmental Services of Blaine, MN, will collect the pesticides and transport them to Wisconsin where they will be bulk packaged and then transported to federally approved incinerators and disposal sites in other states.

Johnson said a total of 155,158 pounds of unusable pesticides were collected at nine sites in 2003, compared to 190,759 pounds at 16 sites in 2002.

"I hope that the 2005 Legislature will authorize full funding for Project Safe Send for the next biennium," Johnson said. "The numbers clearly show a continued need for the program, and there is widespread support for it among lawmakers."

Until this year, Project Safe Send had been funded by the fees paid by pesticide manufacturers to register their products in the state.

Since 1991, more than 1.4 million pounds of unusable pesticides, including DDT, arsenic and mercury compounds, have been shipped out of state and destroyed through Project Safe Send.

All collections will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (local time) at the North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) facilities (except West Fargo) in the following communities:

- ★ **July 13 – Hettinger DOT**, 121 1st St. N; located  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile north of U.S. Highway 12 on the road to the airport.
- ★ **July 14 – Underwood DOT**, 337 Old Highway 83; located just north of the city on the west side of Highway 83.
- ★ **July 15 – Mohall DOT**, 802 CO Road 9N; drive west through Mohall on Highway 5, cross the railroad tracks on the west edge of town, turn right at County Road 9 and go  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north; located on the right side of the road.
- ★ **July 16 – Devils Lake DOT**, 1905 Schwan Ave. NW; located  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Devils Lake – Industrial Park – on the south side of U.S. Highway 2.
- ★ **July 19 – Cavalier DOT**, 9398 138th Ave. NE; located 3 miles west of Cavalier on the south side of N.D. Hwy 5.
- ★ **July 20 – West Fargo, Cass County Highway Department shop**, 1201 W. Main Ave.; located on the south side of Main Avenue,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile east of the Red River Valley Fairgrounds.
- ★ **July 21 – Jamestown DOT**, 3568 81ST Ave. NE; take Exit 256 on I-94, Woodbury Interchange, drive north about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile; located on the east side of street.
- ★ **July 22 – Oakes DOT**, 914 S 7th St.; drive south on 7th St,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile south of the railroad tracks, located on the east side before the SE Vocation Center.



WHEAT OUTLOOK

U.S. 2004 Winter Wheat Production is Down

Projected U.S. 2004/05 ending stocks of wheat are down 5 million bushels from last month as smaller production is partially offset by larger carryin stocks. Forecast winter wheat production is 20 million bushels below last month because of lower yields, especially in several major hard red winter producing States. Projected use is unchanged from last month but is down 190 million bushels from last year. The projected price range is unchanged at \$3.25 to \$3.85 per bushel.

Projected 2003/04 U.S. wheat ending stocks are up 15 million bushels due to lower than expected exports.

World wheat production projected for 2004/05 increased this month by 5 million tons to 593 million. Generally favorable growing conditions boosted prospects for Russia, China, the EU-25, and Iran. Forecast global consumption increased less than 2 million tons with increases in India and the Middle East. These changes left 2004/05 world ending stocks of 126 million tons, up 3 million tons compared with a month ago, but down 2 million compared with a year earlier.

2004 Winter Wheat Production Forecast Down From May

Winter wheat production for 2004 is forecast at 1,531 million bushels, down 20 million bushels from the May 1 forecast and 176 million bushels below 2003. Hard red winter (HRW) production is down 23 million bushels from a month ago to 887 million bushels. Soft red winter (SRW) is down 2 million bushels from last month, and now totals 397 million bushels. White winter production totals 247 million bushels, up 5 million bushels from last month.

Forecast 2004/05 Production Losses Mostly Offset by Higher Beginning Stocks

Projected 2004/05 supply is down 4 million bushels as higher carryin stocks mostly offset the forecast reduced production of winter wheat from the May projection. Carryin stocks are 15 million bushels higher due to lower than

expected exports for 2003/04. Exports for 2003/04 are projected down from May; 10 million bushels for HRW wheat and 5 million for white wheat. There are no changes in projected use of wheat or the projected spring wheat supplies, so the decrease in 2004/05 supply reduces 2004/05 ending stocks by 4 million bushels.

Total projected imports for 2003/04 are unchanged from May, but there are small changes across four classes because of the import pace to date. HRW wheat imports are down 1 million bushels to 1 million; hard red spring (HRS) imports are down 1 million bushels to 12 million; SRW wheat imports are up 1 million bushels to 28 million; and white wheat imports are up 1 million to 10 million bushels.

Favorable Growing Conditions Boost Foreign Production Prospects 5 Million Tons

World wheat production projected for 2004/05 increased this month 5 million tons to 593 million. Generally favorable growing conditions for winter wheat prevailed across much of the Eurasian land mass this spring, boosting 2004/05 production prospects for Russia, China, the EU-25, and Iran. Russia's wheat production forecast increased 2 million tons this month to 42 million. Russia's production is up sharply from last year's crop when winter conditions were extremely bad, but still significantly less than the 51 million tons produced in 2002/03, when area was higher and growing conditions were excellent for both winter and spring wheat crops.

China's wheat production forecast increased 1 million tons to 85 million tons because of improved yield prospects for winter wheat. Early harvest reports indicate average yields up from last year, but not enough to offset record low area, leaving projected production still down year to year. Generally good growing conditions also boosted winter wheat yield prospects in France and Iran, increasing forecast production 1 million tons in each. Projected 2004/05 wheat production for Brazil increased slightly this month because of increased plantings due to the reportedly good returns to the previous crop.

Source: Wheat Outlook, USDA-ERS, June 15, 2004

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David Knopf, Deputy Director  
William Meyer, Deputy Director

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